



**Interlocal Agreement  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 38  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 08/18/2005  
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**SUBJECT:** Authorize negotiation and execution of a Joint Funding Agreement with the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) for water resources investigation projects for Fiscal Year 2005-2006, in an amount not to exceed \$260,000, with two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$280,000 per extension, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$820,000

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding in the amount of \$260,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Proposed Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department.

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING** Watershed Protection and **DIRECTOR'S**  
**DEPARTMENT:**Development Review      **AUTHORIZATION:** Joe Pantalion

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roger Glick, 974-2096; Jacqueline Ramos, 974-3371

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** N/A

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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Since 1974, the City of Austin (COA) and the United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey have joined efforts to study and/or monitor the quantity and quality of water in local streams and lakes, and in the Edwards Aquifer. The purpose of the monitoring is to provide a more complete database for urban hydrological studies in order to protect and improve the water quality/quantity conditions of the Austin area.

This cooperative program has successfully produced an ongoing compilation and analysis of data collected each year. Major projects that will benefit from the information collected this fiscal year are the Watershed Protection Department's Master Plan, the Barton Creek monitoring program, recharge to and water quality in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer, and the quality and quantity impact studies of other Austin creeks, Town Lake and Lake Austin. During the year, City staff monitors the progress of the project. At the end of each fiscal year, both agencies jointly evaluate the results to determine if program goals have been completed and to set data collection plans for next year. This proposed agreement has been developed as a result of last year's joint staff evaluation.

Under the terms of this agreement, the USGS performs monitoring work, provides data to the City, and submits invoices quarterly for their services. The total cost of this cooperative project for FY 2005-2006 will be approximately \$485,000, of which the City's share will be about \$260,000. This is an increase of approximately \$35,000 compared to FY 2004-2005, reflecting three additional monitoring stations which will help determine the creek recharge in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Additional partners are participating with USGS in the Austin-area monitoring program for FY 2005-2006, allowing more data to be collected in the area at a reduced cost to the City. However, continued participation by these partners is not confirmed for the years covered by the extension options.